



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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DATE: May 1, 2002

SOLONS CALL MEETING TO DISCUSS MOSQUITO CONTROL

State Rep. Rodney Alexander, Chairman of the House Health and Welfare Committee and state Sen. Bill Jones, member of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee have requested the appearance of representatives of the Dept. of Health and Hospitals' office of public health before a joint meeting of the two committees.

The joint meeting will be held on Thursday, May 9 at 9:30 a.m. in House Committee Room 4 to discuss development of a comprehensive strategy for the reduction of mosquito diseases in Louisiana, particularly in northeast Louisiana.

Alexander and Jones are working with local officials on the mosquito control problem. They said this meeting will bring everyone up to date on what is being done at the state level and what local governments can do to assist in the future to help control the mosquito population.

Encephalitis, which is carried by mosquitos, resulted in several deaths in northeast Louisiana last year. Of the 71 cases of St. Louis encephalitis reported in Richland, Morehouse and Ouachita parishes last year, 63 cases occurred in Ouachita Parish. There have been other cases of encephalitis reported statewide in recent months, including cases of St. Louis encephalitis and West Nile virus.

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